

CROP REPORT



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PRESS RELEASE
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2006 Hazelnut Crop forecast up 49 percent

Hazelnut production in Oregon is forecast to be 41,000 tons, according to the Oregon field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. If realized, this would be 49 percent above last year's hazelnut crop of 27,600 tons, and up 9 percent from 2004.

From 1992 to 2003, Oregon hazelnut production exhibited a biennial bearing pattern. Production in those years fluctuated greatly from year-to-year, some more than 200 percent. The 2004 crop deviated from this production pattern with a reduction in production of just one percent from the previous year. The pattern deviated again in 2005 when the hazelnut crop was down for a second year in a row. The 2006 crop may be a return to a biennial bearing pattern.

This year there was an average of 380 nuts picked per tree for the Hazelnut Objective Yield Survey. The Oregon field office uses the survey to forecast Oregon's hazelnut crop. This is the highest average since 2001, when there was an average of 574 nuts picked per tree. The percentage of good nuts analyzed in the laboratory, at 85.2 percent, is 5.7 percentage points higher than last year. Brown stained nuts totaled 0.3 percent of all nuts sampled, which is lower than last year, but higher than 2003 and 2004.

The average size grade per good nut was 5.38 and the dry weight per good nut sampled was 2.96 grams. The nuts sampled were both smaller and lighter than in 2005, which is to be expected with a larger crop. Large nuts (NASS laboratory sizes 4, 5, and 6) accounted for 46.4 percent of the total, and jumbo nuts (NASS laboratory sizes 7 and 8) accounted for 34.2 percent of the total.

Hazelnuts: Utilized production, Oregon, 1999-2005 and Forecasted 2006¹

Utilized production (in-shell basis)

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ²	2006
Tons	Tons						
39,700	22,300	49,500	19,500	37,900	37,500	27,600	41,000

¹ Forecast as of August 22, 2006.

² Revised July 6, 2006.

Hazelnuts: Share of good nuts by size, Oregon, 2003-2006

NASS Laboratory			Share of good nuts				Industry Equivalents	
Size	Minimum measure	Maximum measure	2003	2004	2005	2006	Size	Measure
1	mm	mm	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		mm
1	-	14.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.6	Small	less than 17.9
2	14.6	18.3	12.0	5.3	4.9	7.2	Small	less than 17.9
3	18.3	19.9	15.6	9.6	7.6	11.6	Medium	17.9-19.4
4	19.9	20.9	15.2	9.5	5.2	14.0	Large	19.4-22.2
5	20.9	22.0	20.8	15.3	8.5	19.4	Large	19.4-22.2
6	22.0	22.6	12.3	11.7	7.9	13.0	Large	19.4-22.2
7	22.6	23.6	12.8	18.5	17.3	16.9	Jumbo	22.2+
8	23.6	-	10.8	29.9	48.4	17.3	Jumbo	22.2+

For more details, please contact the Oregon Field Office of USDA, NASS at (503) 326-2131 or 1-800-338-2157 or via email at nass-or@nass.usda.gov. Information is also available on our home page: www.nass.usda.gov/or.